

BATTLEWORLD

GHOST RACERS™



MARVEL

003

**SECRET
WARS**

SMITH
GEDEON
BONVILLAIN

GHOT RACES™



RATED T
\$3.99US
DIRECT EDITION
MARVEL.COM



SECRET
WARS

MARVEL

003 VARIANT
EDITION

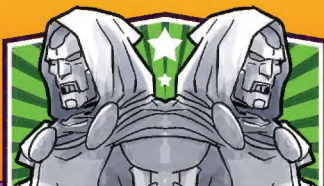
THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!

THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT!

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS **BATTLEWORLD!**

A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

EACH DOMAIN HOLDING ITS OWN MYSTERIES AND ENCHANTMENTS, BUT THIS DOMAIN IS MOST SPECIAL, AS IT IS THE CAPITAL STATE KNOWN AS...



DOOMSTADT

SECRET WARS



ON ITS OUTSKIRTS IS AN ARENA BUILT TO ENTERTAIN THE MASSES OF BATTLEWORLD: **THE KILLISEUM!** HERE, GRUESOME GAMES AND EVENTS ABOUND. GLADIATOR FIGHTS! MONSTER SLAYING! EXECUTIONS! BUT NO ATTRACTION SO POPULAR, EXCITING OR DANGEROUS AS THE

GHOST RACES!!!



KILLISEUM
LAP 4/5 06' 23" 18



1ST
ROBBIE REYES



2ND
DANNY KETCH



3RD
ALEJANDRA BLAZE

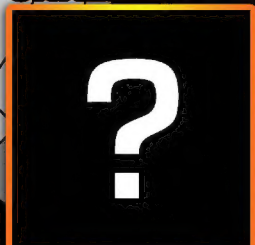


4TH
JOHNNY BLAZE



5TH
CARTER SLADE

NEW CHALLENGER



????????????

THE DOOMROCK HEIGHTS PROJECTS. SOUTH DOOMSTADT.

--AND
WOW!

WHAT
A GHOST
RACE THIS HAS
TURNED INTO,
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN!

A
VERITABLE
ROYAL RUMBLE
THE LIKES OF WHICH
WE'VE NEVER
WITNESSED!

FOR THOSE
OF YOU WATCHING
AT HOME--ATTENDANCE
AT DOOMSTADT'S
LEGENDARY KILLISEUM
IS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH,
AND FOR THE FIRST TIME
SINCE HIS DEBUT
RACE...

...UNDISPUTED
CHAMP ROBBIE
REYES SEEMS TO
BE IN REAL
TROUBLE!

NO!

RACER
REYES BETTER
DO SOMETHING
PRONTO!

ROBBIE!
BEHIND
YOU!

WATCH
OUT!

VENUS COMPILER,
THE "RACETRACK REAPER"...
"GAMBLER'S RUIN" HERSELF...
HAS BEEN DEPLOYED!

THE ODDS-EVENING
AUTOMATON HAS MADE
SHORT WORK OF ALL
COMPETING IGNITERS IN
A MATTER OF MERE
SECONDS...

HER SOLE
OBJECTIVE NOW:
ELIMINATE GHOST
RACER ROBBIE
R. REYES!

AND THE
FANS IN THE
STANDS GO
WILD!

PLEASE
EXCUSE
US-WE...

...WE'RE AT
A LOSS FOR
WORDS-WE...

...GHOST
RACER FANS, IT
SEEMS RACER REYES...
HAS SIMPLY VANISHED
INTO THIN AIR...

ROBBIE!



LIVE FAST. DIE HARD. RACE FOREVER! // // // // //

GHOST RACERS

/// STORY: FELIPE SMITH ART: JUAN GEDEON ///

COLOR: TAMRA BONVILLAIN LETTERING: VC's CORY PETIT

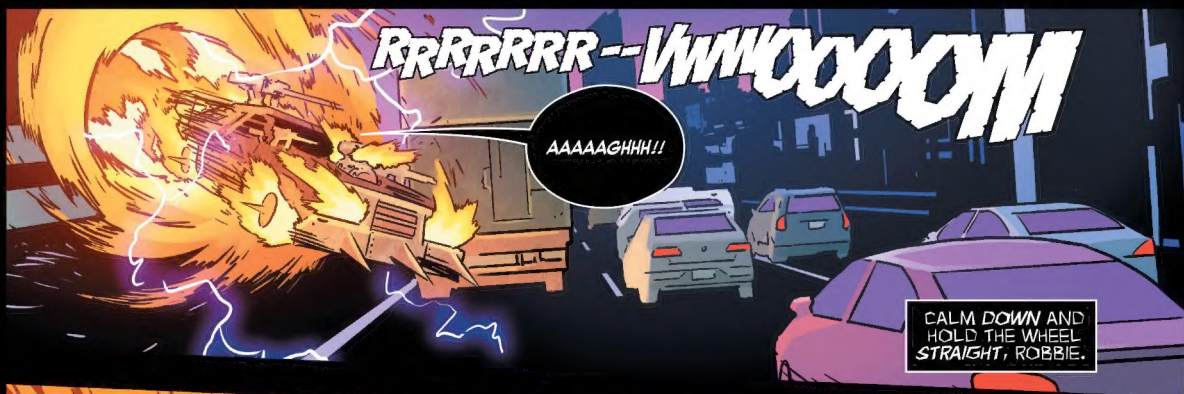
PRODUCTION DESIGN: MANNY MEDEROS

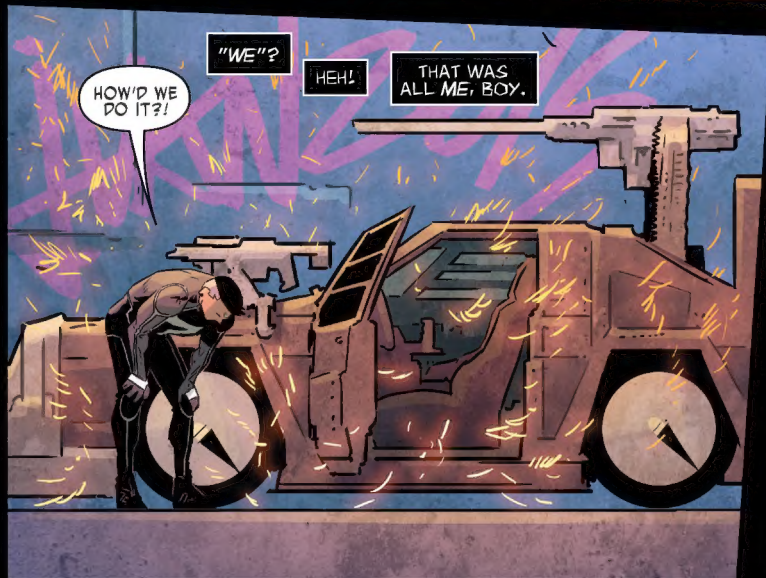
COVER: FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA VARIANT COVER: FELIPE SMITH

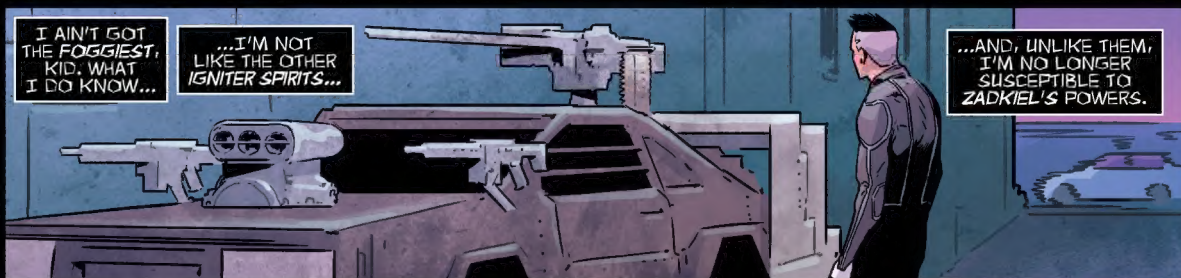
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EDITOR IN CHIEF AXEL ALONSO CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER JOE QUESADA

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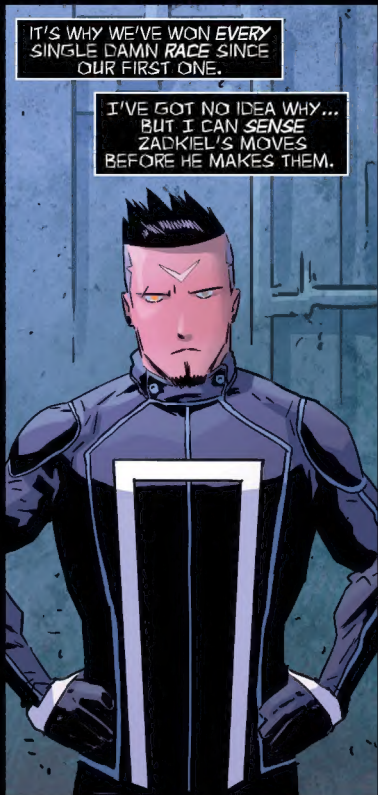




I AIN'T GOT
THE FOGGIEST,
KID. WHAT
I DO KNOW...

...I'M NOT
LIKE THE OTHER
IGNITER SPIRITS...

...AND, UNLIKE THEM,
I'M NO LONGER
SUSCEPTIBLE TO
ZADKIEL'S POWERS.



IT'S WHY WE'VE WON EVERY
SINGLE DAMN RACE SINCE
OUR FIRST ONE.

I'VE GOT NO IDEA WHY...
BUT I CAN SENSE
ZADKIEL'S MOVES
BEFORE HE MAKES THEM.



LET'S GO,
ROBBIE.
HOP IN.

LET'S KEEP
IT MOVING.

FWOOOOSH

WRRMMMM



AND DRIVE
AROUND LIKE
NOTHING
HAPPENED?

LIKE WE
DIDN'T JUST
TELEPORT OUT OF
A GHOST RACE...
AND BECOME
GOD DOOMED
FUGITIVES?!

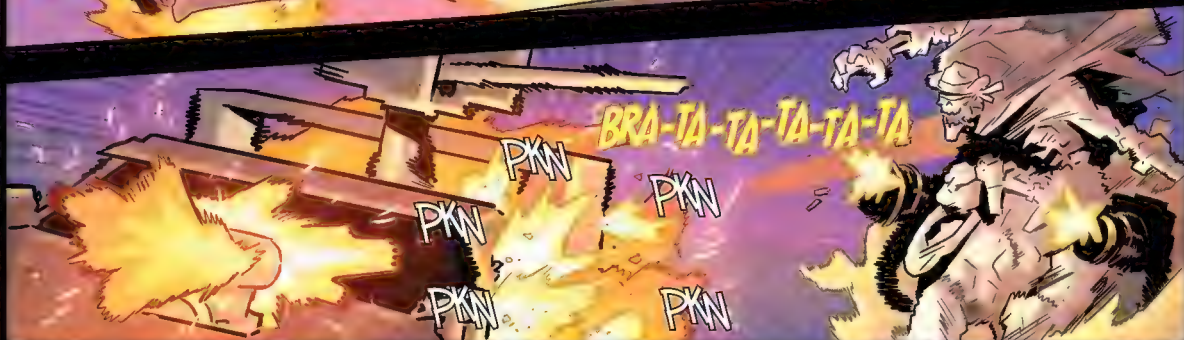
WE'RE IN A
FULLY WEAPONIZED
BATTLE CHARGER,
ELI! THE THOR POLICE
WILL MAKE US FROM
A MILE AWA--

VWAAAAAPP

WHOA...









YOU GOT IT.

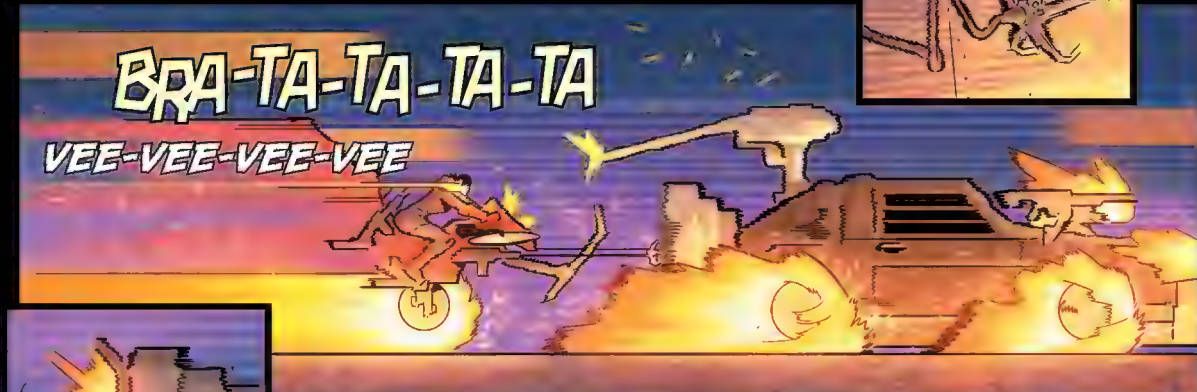
DOOMSTADT IS PERFECTION

KLANK



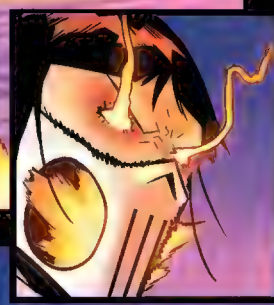
BRA-TA-TA-TA-TA

VEE-VEE-VEE-VEE



BA-KOOM

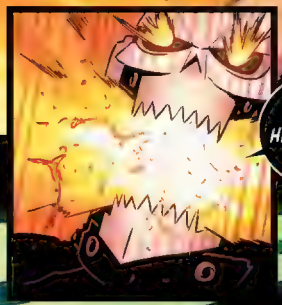
THUD



EAT #5%[^],
REYES!!

BRANKA-BRANKA-BRANKA

HIAAAAARRR!!!



DOOM IS EVERYWHERE



KA-THINK



HUUROOOOAAA!!







STOP THIS ALEJANDRA!!
WE'RE NOT ENEMIES!

VHP-
VHP-
VHP-
VHP-



KR-KKOW

WE'RE ALL THE SAME!

WE'RE SPIRITS OF IGNITION, GOD DOOMMIT!

WE'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG YET WE'RE PUNISHED AND TORTURED DAILY BY THE SYSTEM...



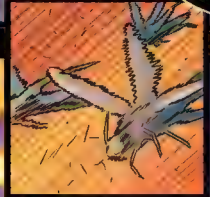
KOOM

KOOM

KOOM

KOOM

GAAHH!!

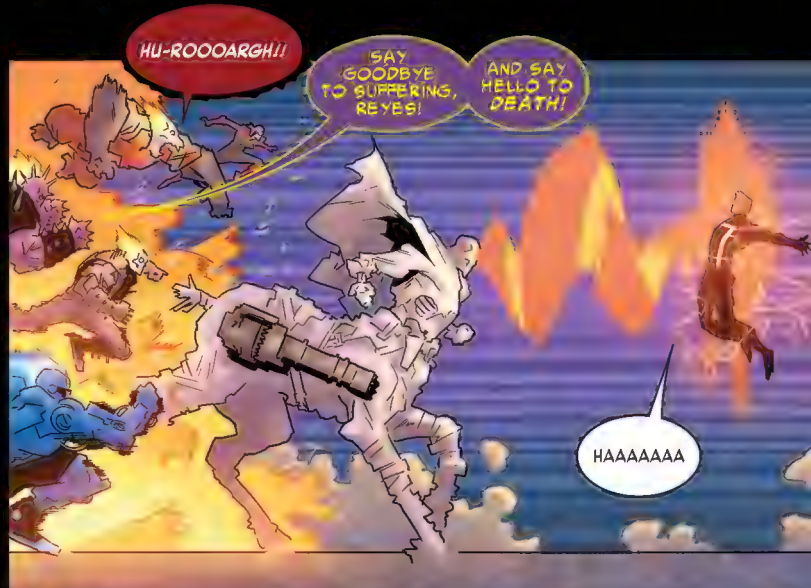
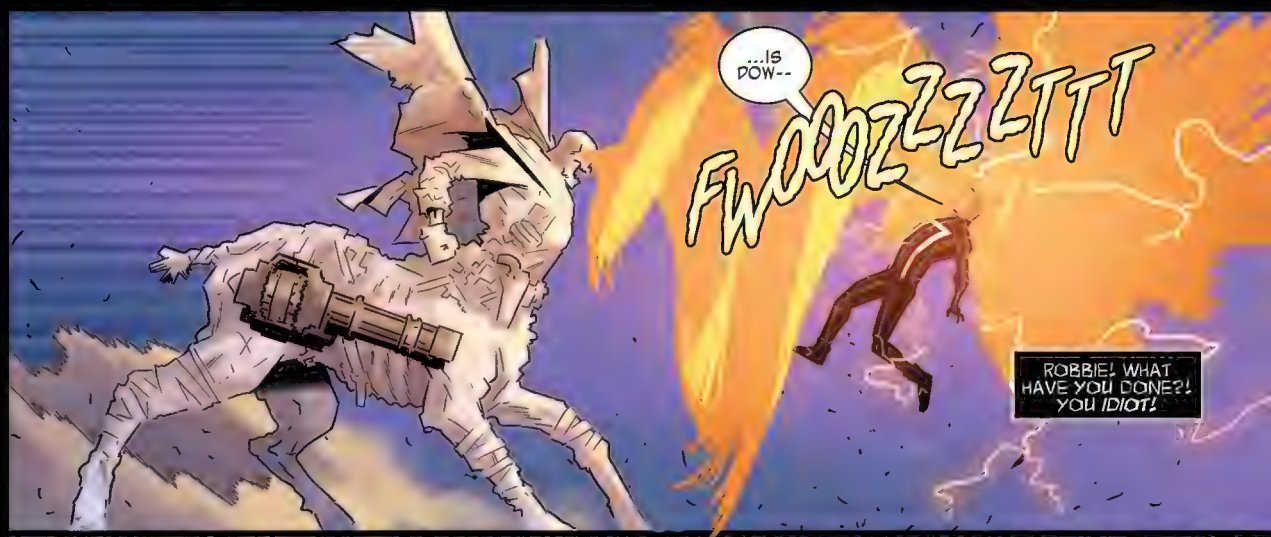


FOR A CRIME WE DON'T COMPREHEND!

DON'T TRY TO REASON WITH THESE IDIOTS! YOU'RE GONNA GET US KILLED!



LET'S TELEPORT THE HELL OUTTA HERE, KID!

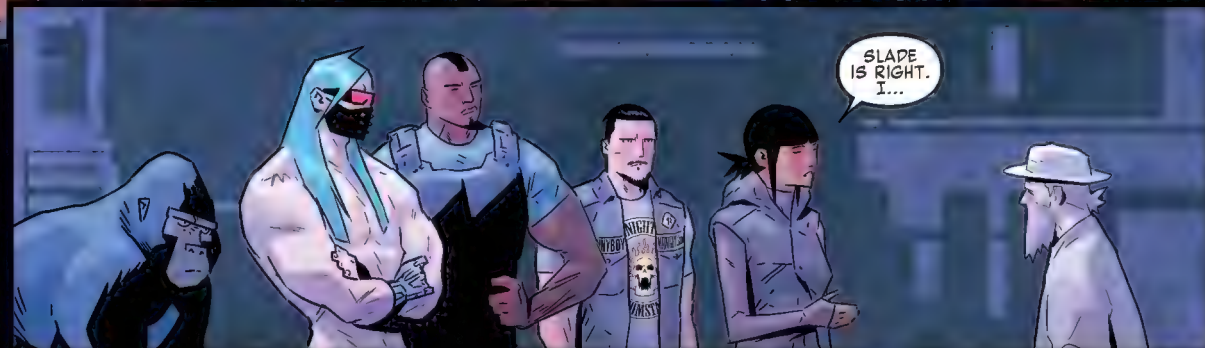
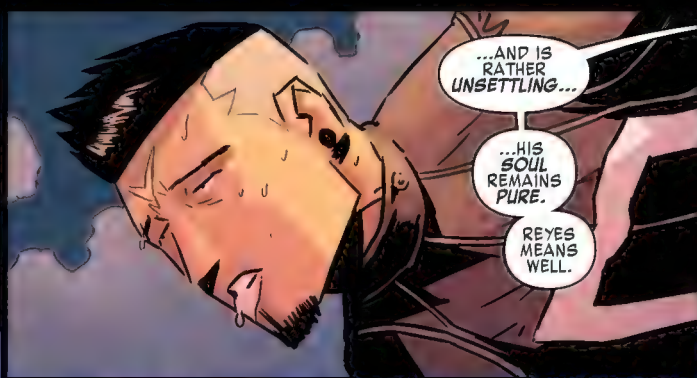


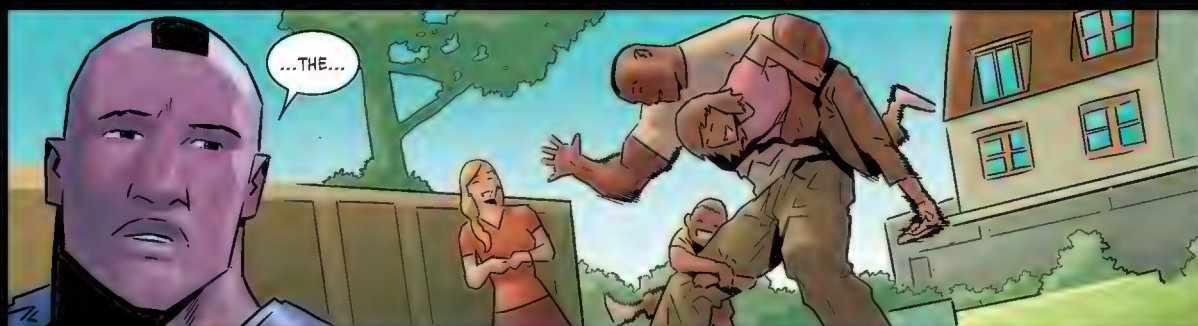
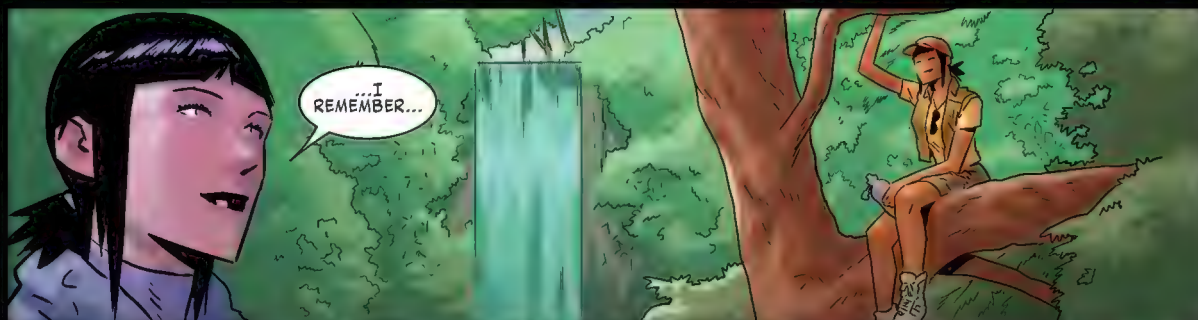


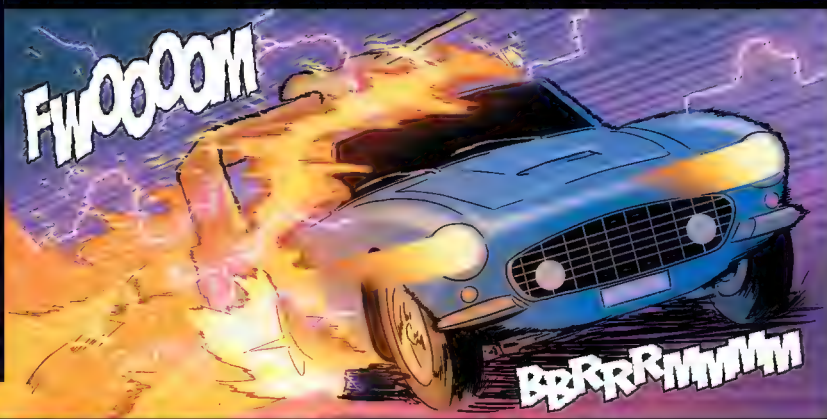
SLADE!!!
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?!!

GURRROO
OOORRRHHH!!

HRRGGG!







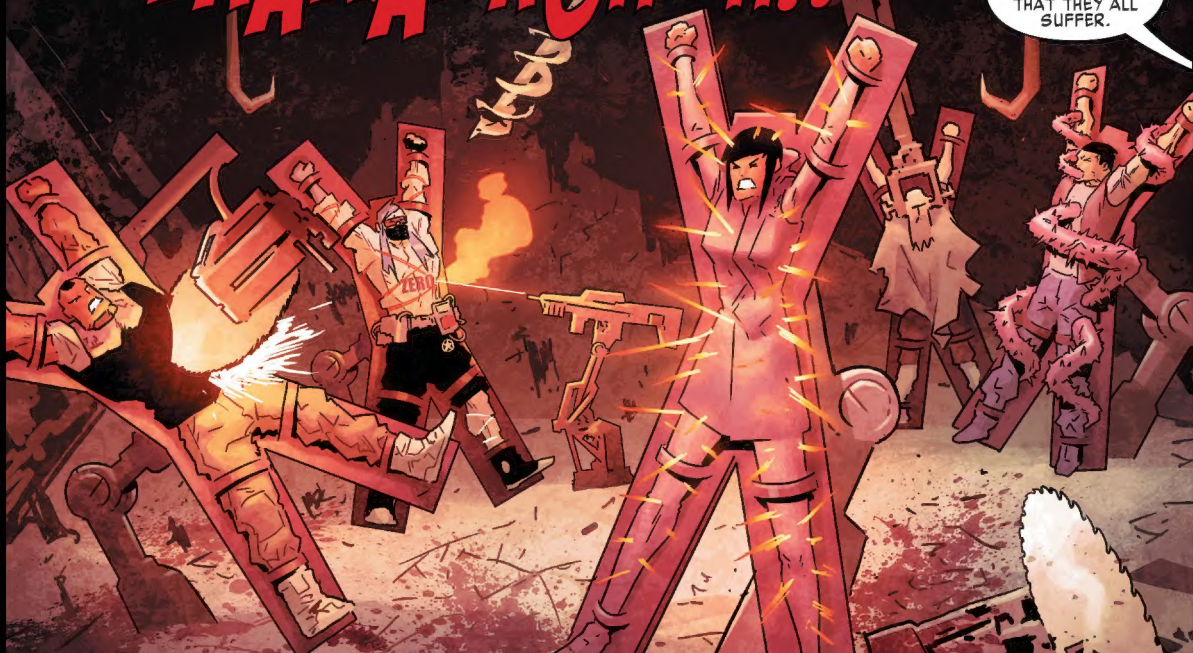


DOOMSTADT KILLISEUM:
PROUD HOME OF YOUR
FAVORITE GHOST RACERS.

IIIEAAAAGHHH!!

I DO NOT
UNDERSTAND
HOW IT HAPPENED,
ARCADE...

...BUT, AS
DOOM IS MY
WITNESS, I'LL SEE
THAT THEY ALL
SUFFER.



ARCADE.
MY SENSES
SELDOM
FAIL ME...

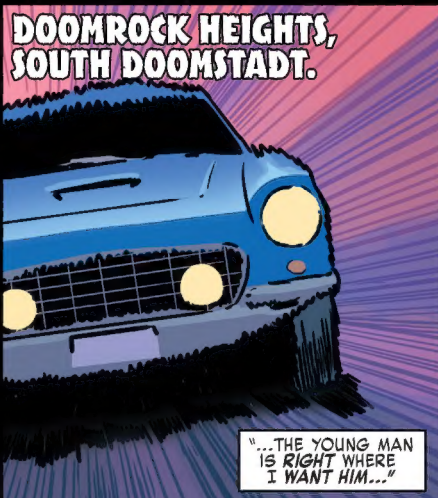
...AND I
SENSE THAT,
FOR SOME REASON,
YOU'RE AT EASE.
PLEASED,
EVEN.

ARE YOU
NOT CONCERNED
ABOUT REYES'
ESCAPE?



NO, ZADKIEL...
MY ARCHANGEL OF
DEATH... REYES HAS
NOT ESCAPED NOR
IS HE OUT OF MY
REACH. QUITE
CONTRARILY...





DOOMROCK HEIGHTS,
SOUTH DOOMSTADT.

"...THE YOUNG MAN
IS RIGHT WHERE
I WANT HIM..."



GABE!
WE GOTTA
GO!

WE
GOTTA LEAVE
NOW!

THROW SOME
PANTS AND SOME
TEES IN A BAG...GRAB
YOUR SHOES...AND
LET'S GO!

THUMP



GABE...?



KING
KING
KING



HEY, LISA.
SORRY TO BOTHER
YOU. I'M LOOKING
FOR MY L'IL BRO.

HAVE ANY
OF YOU GUYS
SEEN HIM?

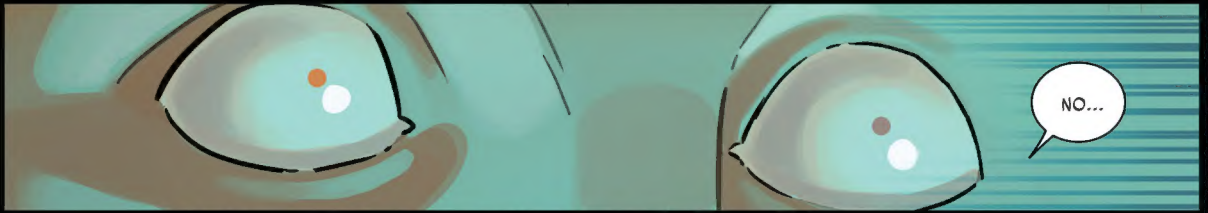
ROBBIE?!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?!

UM, NO...
GABE HASN'T
STOPPED
BY.



!!!

GHOST RACERS
FANS! THE HIGHLIGHT
OF TONIGHT'S EVENT IS
A BRAND NEW
CONTESTANT!



THE DEVIL'S IN THE DETAILS

PART 3: THE MOST SUPERNATURAL SUPER HERO OF ALL

Behind the scenes of the GHOST RACER character designs

JOHNNY BLAZE by Juan Gedeon



If Slade was Mark's 100% idea, Johnny is 100% Felipe's! The only thing I knew about **JOHNNY BLAZE** is what I saw in the movies from the '90s when he was this blonde dude with a shotgun ('cough' Lorenzo Lamas/Renegade 'cough'). Other than that, I had nothing.

My first take was fine at first glance, but it was kinda weak. It was too simple. I really didn't know what to do besides giving him a motocross suit. But Felipe, with his infinite wisdom, enlightened me and told me that Johnny was inspired by Evel Knievel.

I didn't know Evel because they didn't show his stunts in Argentina. I only saw the Simpsons episode where a stuntman based on him shows up, so that's the (poor and mistaken) image of Evel Knievel I had.



Now I love the design because he looks like something from White/Rob Zombie's world, with the horror circus vibe. So I imagine him laughing and screaming like a maniac, instead of roaring like a lion the way **KETCH** would. Blaze is definitely more speed and agility than strength. The crossbones on his chest were Mark's idea, so I basically didn't do anything on this one, haha! I'm a fraud, people. Anyways, I think the crossbones work because they remind me of a pirate flag, a bottle of poison or basically DEATH and nasty stuff.

The only thing I came up with by myself was the motocross bike, because I thought it'd make more sense if he was going to be jumping and doing acrobatics all over the place, instead of charging like a tank like **KETCH**. His chainsaws are inspired by the Texas Chainsaw Massacre (which came out around the same time as Johnny's first appearance in the '70s, so I think it works). I thought it'd be cool if he could grab a chainsaw and attack others by jumping on them. I added the grenade launcher on the back for defense, but it can also appear like he is farting bombs, which I think is kinda funny and works with a carnival freak from hell like our version of Johnny. I haven't had the chance to show this yet, so maybe in the future...

Hope you Johnny Blaze fans don't hate me!

-Juan Gedeon

